

The Cuban government must act now and release Alan Gross immediately and unconditionally—for the sake of the relationship between the United States and Cuban people and for the sake of the health of Alan Gross and his family.

HONORING SUPERIOR CHEVROLET

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, we need businesses to set up shop in our community to provide the goods and services that are needed in order for our citizens to survive and thrive on a day to day basis; and

Whereas, in 1969, Mr. Lamar Ferrell started Lamar Ferrell Chevrolet here in Decatur, Georgia to service the citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia and nearby communities; and

Whereas, when Mr. Ferrell passed away, the new owner Mr. Buddy Hyatt purchased the business and it has been family owned ever since under the name of Superior Chevrolet; and

Whereas, Superior Chevrolet continues to be a resource for citizens in DeKalb County and beyond with excellent service, providing employment opportunities and providing a product that "keeps America moving" contributing to the local and national economy; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia is officially honoring, recognizing and congratulating Superior Chevrolet on their forty-second (42) anniversary as a business anchor in our District;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim October 21, 2011 as Superior Chevrolet Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia

Proclaimed, this 21st day of October, 2011.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF IMPRISONMENT OF ALAN GROSS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday marks the third anniversary since American U.S. AID worker Alan Gross was arrested and unjustly imprisoned in Cuba. It is the third year in a row that the Gross family will prepare to spend another holiday season without their beloved husband, father, and son.

Alan Gross, a resident of Maryland and a long time international development worker, traveled to Cuba in 2009 to help the island's small Jewish community establish better internet access. Upon his arrival, Mr. Gross declared all of his electronic items with Cuban customs officials. Yet on December 3, 2009, he was arrested and subsequently detained for 14 months without any charges filed against him. Earlier this year, he was charged with "acts to undermine the integrity and independence" of Cuba. Mr. Gross, a non-Spanish speaking man in his 60's who has worked on development projects in over 50 countries,

certainly was not trained or equipped to engage in subterfuge.

Alan Gross has been sentenced to 15 years in jail. This preposterous sentence has caused tremendous emotional pain and financial hardship for his family, and devastated the Jewish community. Alan's daughter is currently undergoing treatment for cancer, and his 89 year old mother is in poor health and fears she will never see her son again. Alan's wife, Judy, has been caring for her ill daughter and mother-in-law while working full time to support her family. Alan himself is suffering from severe health problems due to a lack of medical treatment during his incarceration.

In October, Governor Bill Richardson traveled to Cuba with the intent to discuss Alan Gross' release. During this visit, which had been approved by the Cuban Government, Governor Bill Richardson was denied even a single meeting with Alan to assess his health. Subsequently, the Cuban government refused to discuss Alan's case with Governor Richardson.

The Castro regime has chosen to align itself with the most repressive and violent regimes in the world, counting among its friends the Venezuelan and Iranian regimes. These regimes have disregarded judicial processes in order to unjustly hold American citizens to use as leverage. We will not sit idly by and allow an American citizen to suffer at the hands of these tyrants. The Castro regime must immediately allow Alan to receive proper medical treatment and take the necessary steps to bring him home to his family as soon as possible.

My colleagues and I will continue to speak out on behalf of Alan, his family, and the Jewish community, and continue to use every tool at our disposal to secure Alan's immediate release.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day. A day dedicated to bringing awareness to those who have died from the disease and the strides that have been made in the fight against it.

This year marks 30 years after the first discovery of AIDS cases in the United States. The Center of Disease Control (CDC) estimates that 33.3 million people have HIV worldwide, with 1.2 million persons who are living with HIV in the United States. Every 9½ minutes, someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV. One in five living with HIV is unaware of their infection. By race, African Americans face the most severe HIV burden. The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic spans the nation with HIV diagnoses having been reported in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. dependencies, possessions, and associated nations.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2011 is "Getting to Zero." After 30 years of the global fight against HIV/AIDS, this year the focus is on achieving 3 targets: Zero new HIV infections. Zero discrimination. Zero AIDS-related deaths.

The goal of "Zero AIDS Related Deaths" signifies an increased access to available treatments for all those infected. Currently, only one third of the 15 million people living with HIV worldwide who are in need of lifelong treatment are receiving it. Universal access to antiretroviral treatments for those living with HIV will not only decrease the number of AIDS related deaths, but will increase the quality of life among those infected and decrease transmission.

World AIDS Day is an opportunity for all of us to learn the facts about HIV. By increasing the understanding of how HIV is transmitted, how it can be prevented, and the reality of living with HIV today—we can use this knowledge to take care of our own health and the health of others.

Since its discovery, countless researchers, healthcare providers, politicians, and educators have contributed to the global initiative to contain and eventually eliminate the presence of AIDS in all corners of the world. Recent scientific advancements have resulted in revolutionary breakthroughs with the potential to reverse the epidemic in coming years. I ask my colleagues to join me in this goal, to remember those who have died of the disease and to celebrate accomplishments achieved, specifically the increased access to treatment and prevention services.

It is imperative that we continue our efforts and work together to increase funding for HIV prevention and education, so that our children will be equipped with sufficient and appropriate knowledge of this growing threat within our communities until HIV/AIDS becomes a memory.

RECOGNIZING DR. ROGER GORDON SMITH'S CAREER SERVICE TO OUR NATION'S VETERANS

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an unsung hero of the Veterans Administration, Dr. Roger Gordon Smith, M.D. Dr. Smith was born on April 6, 1951, and just recently concluded his long career serving our nation's veterans on August 26th of this year.

Dr. Smith attended Battle Creek Central High School in Michigan, where he graduated in 1969. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry with top honors from Howard University in 1973. He also earned his doctoral degree in medicine with scholastic honors from Howard University in 1977. Following that, he interned at Howard University Hospital until 1978, whereupon he obtained his license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia the following year.

With such an auspicious beginning to his career in medicine, one might have expected Dr. Smith to pursue a lucrative private practice. Instead, once he had paid off his medical school debts, Dr. Smith chose to apply his considerable talents toward a long career with the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee. There, he attended to the often difficult and complex needs of disabled and retired veterans, most of whom were just returning from Vietnam.

Upon beginning work with the VA, Dr. Smith quickly faced skepticism and bigotry from